

**EL DORADO COUNTY**  
**Behavioral Health Court Expansion Program (\$700,000 grant)**

This project expands the county's existing Behavioral Health Court (BHC) program in South Lake Tahoe (SLT) to provide in-custody interventions and post-custody treatment and support services (based on the Forensic Assertive Community Treatment model) to an additional 24 offenders and establishes a BHC program in Placerville for 24 offenders. Participation in the BHC program consists of overlapping phases that include judicial oversight, probation supervision, individual treatment, drug testing, rewards and sanctions. Because treatment plans are individualized, the requirements for successfully completing each phase of the program vary. Clients "promote" from phase to phase based on an evaluation by the mental health case manager, treatment team members, and BHC judge.

In-custody services include outreach to, and engagement with, potential project participants, mental health assessments by jail facility officers and mental health staff, and development of post-custody treatment plans that often become synonymous with the formal court orders and probation terms. The treatment plan developed by the multi-disciplinary BHC team involves intensive case management and probation supervision, and typically includes assistance in obtaining social security disability entitlements, vocational rehabilitation and job development services, transportation, transitional housing (six residential beds in SLT and five in Placerville), medication services, and educational opportunities. The BHC team for each region includes a mental health consumer aide who provides peer support, life skills training, and transportation assistance.

Project Co-Directors:

Lt. Randy Peshon, El Dorado County Sheriff's Department  
(530) 573-3040; [peshonr@edso.org](mailto:peshonr@edso.org)

John Bachman, PhD  
(530) 621-5106; [john.bachman@edcgov.us](mailto:john.bachman@edcgov.us)